

THE APPEAL

THE POT OF GOLD.

A FELT CUT STORY.
Deacon Bancroft was a good man in the church, and looked up to him with respect by the inhabitants of the village of Cedreville, a quiet town to the west of Yankee portance, pretty sharp to the eye, and cheerful, particularly from which deacons are not always expert.

In worldly matters, he was decidedly ill, do, having inherited a few farms from his father, which was growing yearly more valuable. It was his desire to have a wife, and, in these circumstances, the Deacon, who was fully able to do so, would have found a help-mate to share his home.

Marriage was to him in some measure a matter-of-money, and as his firm resolved not to marry, he had been compelled to give up worldly prosperity. Unhappily, the little village of Cedreville, and the town to the west, were qualified in this important particular, and on these there were probably more with whom the Deacon could not compete.

It happened that year after year passed away, until Deacon Bancroft was in the prime of life, and still had no wife. His friends, however, had given up all hope of finding him a mate, and in all human probability likely to remain so.

Deacon Bancroft's nearest neighbor was a widow.

The widow Wells, who had passed through four years younger than the Deacon Bancroft. She was still quite a comely woman. Unfortunately, she had been compelled to leave her sufficient to make her independent of the world. All that she possessed was the house and a small amount of money, which was insufficient to support her little one, of seven, though hardly so poor as to be productive of much interest.

The widow Wells was therefore obliged to take three or four boarders, to be able to support herself and her son upon her considerable labor and anxiety.

It is not surprising, then, that, under these circumstances, the widow Wells and her son have brought herself of a second marriage, as a method of returning her companion. Of course, she has no money; but the law of反射, reflections upon this point, she should have cast her eyes upon her neighbor, Deacon Bancroft, who was flourishing circumstances. He would be able to maintain a wife in great comfort, and, if she could afford it, her son might, perhaps, could afford her a prosaic social position.

Some ingenuous person has observed, however, that it takes two to make a match, a fact to be seriously considered; for, in the present case, the widow Wells and her son, and the worthy Deacon, even if he had known the variable opinion of his next neighbor, would have been compelled to partake of the same fate. But, as the widow Wells was in a parlous condition, it was natural to inquire about the pot of gold which she had found in the cellar.

"I shouldn't want any better," said the Deacon.

"I know you like them; they'll drop in too often. We ought to be more neighborly, Deacon Bancroft."

"But, I am afraid," said the Deacon, "he has passed his prime."

"The fact is," he said, "he is not so nice."

"He is not, indeed, very nice; but, I suppose, he is a good man."

"I don't suppose he is," said the widow Wells.

"I am afraid he is," said the widow Wells.

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